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EARLY MEMORIES. By HENRY CABOT LODGE. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913.

Few autobiographies are on all scores better worth the reading than this of Henry Cabot Lodge's. Writing with the mellowness, but without the studied languor, of reminiscence, Senator Lodge gives lively impressions of life from the time when "Boston was small enough to be satisfying to a boy's desires" down to the beginning of the author's political career. Senator Lodge has, of course, a large grasp of things, and—what is far rarer—he has that true relish and appreciation of what is intimately connected with oneself which is the very soul of autobiography. He can be quite frank—with the frankness moderns have learned from Montaigne, and on occasion also with a modern subtlety of analysis. But the quality of his writing that strikes us most, perhaps, is its urbanity—the urbanity characteristic of Holmes, G. W. Curtis, Lowell, our classic school of American writers.

Senator Lodge dwells pleasantly but not too caressingly upon his boyhood days—the days of clipper ships—brought vividly before our eyes—of merchants' offices in the granite blocks running down to the piers at Commercial or Lewis Wharf, whither came pestering small boys—himself among them—in search of foreign postage stamps; the days of skating on the Frog Pond and snow fights on the Common. Characterizing the Boston of that period with a gift for modestly expressive speech that is his in a greater degree than it is most men's, he writes: "Whatever its merits or defects, Boston in the first decade of the second half of the nineteenth century had a meaning and a personality, and even a boy could feel them. It may have been narrow, austere, at times even harsh, this personality, but it was there, and it was strong, manly, aggressive. It would still have been possible to rally the people in 1850 as they were once rallied against British soldiers on a certain cold March evening with the cry of 'Town born, turn out!'"

Of the Civil War, he gives a boy's impressions, as little as possible confused with mature afterthoughts, and he really adds a good deal to the effect and significance of the period in our minds. Here and everywhere there is apt and relevant anecdote, and the flavor that is given by strong and interesting personalities—some famous and some not. There are hitherto unpublished stories about Rufus Choate, and there is a letter from Daniel Webster on the subject of fishing—a letter methodical as always, but not oratorical, for once, and showing the writer, oh, very much absorbed in the minutiae of angling. There is much of foreign travel—not at all in the guide-book style. There are delightful memories of Harvard together with a side-light upon the elective system newly introduced by President Eliot; and the reminiscences of the American stage as it used to be are unexpectedly full. Again, nothing could be sounder or more entertaining than the author's digressive interpretation of boy-life or his frankly critical discussion, from the boy's standpoint, of books for boys, including *Tom Brown*, *Sandford and Merton*, and the Abbott stories.

Senator Lodge shuns the rôle of *laudator temporis acti*, and his chapter of retrospect is no bitter contrast of past and present, yet he speaks firmly and vigorously regarding certain modern sentimental and political tendencies, and, without argument, does us good by enabling us to think

the sterner thoughts and feel the possibly more wholesome feelings of an earlier generation of Americans. His autobiography, if not the most important record of the last half-century, is certainly one of the most profitable and entertaining.

THE WRITINGS OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS. Edited by WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD, Vol. II. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1913.

The period covered in the present volume of John Quincy Adams's collected correspondence extends from 1796 to 1801. The opening of the period finds him at The Hague, whither he had been sent as Minister Resident, only a little while before Pichegru marched into the capital of the Low Countries, hung out the tri-color, and established the "Batavian Republic" as the ally of France. The close of the period sees Adams in Berlin, having been accredited to the Prussian King as ambassador for the purpose of concluding a treaty of amity and commerce between Prussia and the United States.

Adams remained at The Hague until November, 1797, keeping a sharp eye upon French politics, and maintaining a comprehensive and pithy correspondence with his father, John Adams, with Timothy Pickering, Secretary of State, and others. The letters throw light upon the difficult state of relations abroad and upon political passions at home. Revealing the details of negotiations, they show also the sense of insecurity felt by those in charge of the new republic, the disposition to cry "Wolf!" and the writer's belief in the inclination of the Directory to meddle unwarrantably and even violently in American politics. Adams, however, consistently refused to be bullied, irritated as he frequently was by such humiliating fiascos as the refusal of the Directory to negotiate with Pinckney, the expressed preference for Monroe, the unwise behavior of Gerry in dealing with Talleyrand after the other members of the commission of which Gerry was a member had been dismissed, the "X, Y, Z" episode, and the like. Able diplomat as he was proving himself to be, the Adams of these letters is plainly the Adams of the Diary: the pessimistic and rather self-righteous turn of mind, the more or less restrained bitterness of feeling, and the power of caustic characterization are all in evidence. Of Tom Paine, Adams wrote: "It has, in the course of Heaven's ways to man, been God's pleasure sometimes to create human beings with mischievous powers more extensive than those of Paine, but none more malignant."

In Berlin, after concluding the treaty with which he was charged, Adams continued to watch closely the policies of France, and sought for a means of bringing about an agreement between neutral nations as to the treatment of their commerce; but he quickly saw the true situation, and was far too wise to commit himself by an attempt to do the impossible. Throughout, the letters are of high value, not only as records of fact and personal opinion, but because of the shrewd political reasoning that pervades them.

REVELATION AND THE IDEAL. By GEORGE A. GORDON, MINISTER OF THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH, BOSTON. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

This book of Dr. Gordon's is by no means a philosophical treatise, but